



Boston Connects, Inc.
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

Board Minutes
December 21, 2004

Members Present: George Greenidge *President*, Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Gloria Coney *Clerk*, Mike Foley-*Treasurer*, Joelee Baker-Bey, Michael Glavin, Charlotte Golar Richie, Larry Mayes, Reverend Roland McCall, Elizabeth Miranda, Freddie Umeh

Members Absent: Ralph Cooper, Julia Flashner, Mark Maloney, Jayne Talbot, Joan Wallace Benjamin

BCI Staff: Shirley Carrington, Sherry O'Brien

EDIC Staff: Michelle Trousil, Ken Barnes

Guests: Norma Murphy, Perry Smith and Don Goldberg from Executive Service Corp.

Meeting called to order at 6:15 p.m. and introductions were made.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Motion: To accept September 2004, October 2004 and November 2004 with the following changes. September 2004 meeting, Mike Glavin was present. October 26, 2004 meeting, Liz Miranda was absent and Mike Glavin was present.

By: Mr. Foley
Recused: 0

Second by: Ms. Coney
Abstained: 0

Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

2. Acting Executive Director's Report

Ms. Carrington began her report by presenting the following procurements for votes.

Procurements

Child Care Quality Improvement Grants:

**Goal B ; Investing in Health and Well Being
Strategy 7; Improve the Quality of Childcare**

Motion: To approve funding of the following Family and Center based childcare providers for the amounts listed below to implement the quality improvement proposals in the listed benchmark areas.

Organization	Amount	Benchmark areas
South Boston Neighborhood House	\$3,126.65	Moveable Equipment
Chinese Church Headstart, South End	\$2,478.00	Moveable Equipment
South Boston Headstart 265 E.9 th St.	\$1,976.89	Moveable Equipment



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S. B. Headstart (Orton Marotta Way)	\$1,850.00	Training
Children Services of Roxbury	\$4,000.00	Moveable Equipment
Evelyn Quiedo, Roxbury Family Provider	\$1,000.00	Moveable Equipment
Total	\$14, 431.54	

This vote authorizes the Acting Executive Director, on behalf of BCI, to enter into purchase orders with the aforementioned Family and Center Based child care providers to implement their stated child care quality improvement proposals. These quality grants will improve the quality of child care services to 308 children.

By: Mr. Frederick Umeh	Second: Mr. Mike Foley
Recused: 0	Abstain: 1 (Mr. Joelee Baker-Bey)
Opposed: 0	

Motion: Carried

Fatherhood Initiative

Goal B: Investing in Health and Well-Being

Strategy 4: Fatherhood Development Program

VOTE: This vote authorizes the Acting Executive Director, on behalf of BCI to enter into a two-year contract with the following organization to provide a comprehensive array of services to Empowerment Zone residents. Services will include counseling, information and referral: follow-up to services including education and job training services and placement when possible to residents of the Empowerment Zone.

Boston Public Health Commission (Father Friendly Initiative)
\$100,000

Discussion ensued among Board members regarding legal structure of the Public Health Commission. Board members were concern as to whether the organization was a city agency, a 501c (3), whether BCI funds could be used to fund a city organization, what the impact of BCI funding would be, whether BCI funding would be used as replacement funding, and how many zone residents will be served during the two year contract period.

Motion: That this vote be referred back to the Human Development Committee for further clarification of these matters. The Board agreed to approve the vote pending the answers to their questions after review by the Human Development Committee.

By: Mr. Mike Foley	Seconded: Ms. Elizabeth Miranda
Opposed: 0	Recused: Ms. Gloria Coney
Abstain: 0	Mr. Robert Kinney

Motion: Carried



Employment Services for Ex-Offenders

Goal B: Investing in Education and Job Readiness

Strategy 10: Ex-Offender Services Program

Motion: Invest a total of \$300,000 of Empowerment Zone funds in Goal C10, in a two year contract to provide a variety of job readiness and employment services including self employment and entrepreneurial programs that will result in job placement of Zone ex-offenders. BCI staff will develop and issue a Request for Proposals to organizations that can provide employment services to ex-offenders.

Mr. Robert Kinney disclosed the fact that the agency he is employed by will most likely apply for these funds as well as other funds that provide services to ex-offenders.

By: Mr. Michael Glavin

Opposed:0

Abstain:0

Second: Mr. Baker-Bey

Recuse: 1 (Mr. Robert Kinney)

Motion: Carried

Career Center Contract Extension

BCI's current contract with the three (3) Career Centers ends December 31, 2004. There is \$324,001 remaining and 56 vouchers to be distributed to reach the goal of approximately 100. Ms. Carrington asked the Board to approve an extension of the contracts with the three (3) Career Centers in order to continue to distribute Empowerment Zone individual training vouchers through June 30, 2005.

The major reason that these resources have not been expended is the availability of WIA (Workforce Investment Act) funding that allowed Career Centers to place more EZ residents into training programs using this funding source. Utilizing WIA (Workforce Investment Act) vouchers is leverage to EZ residents.

Mr. Robert Kinney, Chair of the Education and Job Readiness Committee, expressed concern that the request for an extension on the Career Center contracts had not come before the committee and suggested that the request be referred back to the committee for discussion. Mr. Kinney suggested that the vote be tabled until the Education and Job Readiness Committee meets to discuss the proposed vote. Mr. Kinney expressed concern that this action not deny zone residents from seeking training.

Ken Barnes from EDIC explained that WIA vouchers are released periodically but he didn't think that Zone residents would be adversely affected if the committee plans to meet early in January to review the request for contract extension.

Mr. Kinney further suggested that the Education and Job Readiness Committee meet with the Economic Committee to evaluate the jobs created for zone residents against the training resources made available by BCI. Mr. Glavin agreed and suggested looking at future job trends and possible job opportunities in the area.

Motion: That the Education and Job Readiness Committee meet to discuss approval of the extension of the contracts with the three Career Centers in order to continue to distribute Empowerment Zone vouchers through June 30, 2005.

By: Mr. Mike Foley

Second: Mr. Robert Kinney



Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Recused: 0

Motion Carried

Ms. Carrington reported that she had met with the providers of "Reentry Case Management Services for Ex-Offenders", SNAP and Ten Point Coalition. She explained the terms of the contracts and the deliverables expected under each contract. Each provider was awarded \$50,000 over a two-year period. Each provider is expected to serve 20 ex-offenders, provide intensive case-management to 10 and place 5 ex-offenders in jobs.

The Annual Meeting invitations are in the mail and this years awardees have been notified and will be in attendance at the Annual Meeting on January 12, 2005.

The EZ Institute workshops have been advertised in local publications and to date, approximately 25 inquiries have been received. Applications are due to BCI by January 10, 2004 and can be downloaded from the BCI website. Classes are scheduled to begin on January 21, 2005. Interested Board members are welcome to attend these workshops.

Ms. Jayne Talbot has agreed to be is this year's (2005) Nominating Committee Chairperson. Members intersted in being nominated to serve as an Officer of the Board should submit nomination forms to Ms. Talbot or Ms. Carrington as soon as possible.

3. President's Report:

Mr. Greenidge encouraged all members to be at the Annual Meeting by 5:30PM for a brief Board meeting prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Greenidge handed out a committee sign up sheet that outlined a newly consolidated committee structure.

Mr. Greenidge discussed dates for an upcoming Board retreat in February. Friday February 4th or Saturday February 5th are the dates that are being discussed as possible retreat dates. He asked members to think about which day and time would work best for them and follow up with Ms. Carrington so that a date can be finalized.

4. Other Board Matters

Ms. Coney bought up the method currently being used to elect residents to the Board. She felt that elected members are at a disadvantage by the current election process. She suggested that discussion begin regarding the process as it may require a By-Law change. Mr. Umeh volunteered to work with Ms. Coney to review the Board election process.

Ms. Miranda asked about the status of the Executive Director search. Mr. Baker-Bey asked if Ms. Carrington was being compensated for the position of Acting Executive Director.

The Board adjourned to an Executive Session at 7:40PM.

A true record attest:



Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date



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